

Message Text

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PAGE 01 AMMAN 01792 281905Z
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S E C R E T AMMAN 1792

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FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O.. 11652 XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR PINT JO US SY XF
SUBJECT: MEETING WITH KING--LOCAL AND AREA DEVELOPMENTS

REF: STATE 059826

SUMMARY: IN MEETING WITH KING HUSSEIN TODAY HE TOLD ME HE AGREED THAT WE SHOULD NOT THINK ABOUT RELEASING TEXT PRESIDENTS LETTER TO HIM NOW AND THAT IF HE EVER WANTED TO DO SO HE WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH US AGAIN. IN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS FROM ME, HE SAID HE HAS NO INTENTION NOW OF CHANGING HIS GOVERNMENT AND THAT RATHER THAN MOVING CLOSER TO SYRIA AT PRESENT TIME HE IS MOVING AWAY. END SUMMARY

2. KING SAW ME THIS AFTERNOON MARCH 28 AT HASHIMIYAH PALACE. HE HAS HAD A VERY PAINFUL SLIPPED DISC PROBLEM FOR LAST TEN DAYS AND I SAW HIM IN HIS BEDROOM. HE TOLD ME THAT PAIN HAD BEEN ESPECIALLY SEVERE AND THAT HE WOULD BE OUT OF ACTION FOR SEVERAL DAYS UNTIL IT CLEARED UP.

2. I PRESENTED TO HIM SIGNED ORIGINAL OF LETTER FROM PRESIDENT CARTER WHICH ARRIVED A FEW DAYS AGO. I TOLD HIM THAT WE WOULD HAVE NO PROBLEMS WITH HIS SHOWING LETTER TO CLOSE ADVISORS IN
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GOVERNMENT AND LETTING ARMY KNOW THAT HE HAD RECEIVED IT, RESTATING TO THEM CERTAIN OF THE POINTS. I ALSO SAID THAT WE AGREED WITH HIM THAT ISSUE SHOULD NOT BE REOPENED NOW AND THAT IF HE FELT IT NECESSARY AT SOME TIME IN THE FUTURE TO PUBLISH TEXT OF LETTER WE WOULD WANT TO BE CONSULTED. HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT PERFECTLY. SITUATION IN JORDAN HAD MOVED ON AND HE HAD NO CONCERNS HERE ABOUT

NEED TO USE LETTER FURTHER. HE WOULD BE IN TOUCH THROUGH ME IF HE THOUGHT THERE WERE ANY NEED TO USE LETTER BUT AT PRESENT SAW NOTHING ON THE HORIZON WHICH WOULD LEAD HIM TO BELIEVE THAT SUCH NECESSARY.

3. HE ADDED THAT AT END OF RECENT CBS NEWS INTERVIEW WITH MIKE WALLACE LATTER HAD ASKED HIM ABOUT CIA STORY. KING HAD SAID THAT OF COURSE HE HAD BEEN IN COMMUNICATIONS WITH US GOVERNMENT AND THAT THE SITUATION HAD BEEN SATISFACTORILY RESOLVED. HE THEN WENT ON TO ANSWER A FEW QUESTIONS IN SAME VEIN AS IN NEWSWEEK INTERVIEW A FEW WEEKS AGO.

4. I ASKED KING WHETHER HE WAS CONSIDERING CHANGING PRESENT GOVERNMENT. HE SAID HE WAS NOT. HE ADDED THAT PRIME MINISTER IS SOMEWHAT SLOW BUT DOGGED WHEN HE MAKES UP HIS MIND. IT IS AN HONEST TEAM- HE PUT EMPHASIS ON THAT WORD- AND IT WORKS WELL TOGETHER. HE THOUGHT THAT HE SHOULD TAKE A GREATER INTEREST IN ORDERING THE AFFAIRS OF THE COUNTRY AND WOULD DO SO. THERE WERE TOO MANY OVERLAPPING JURISDICTIONS AND THE WHOLE SYSTEM BADLY NEEDED REORGANIZATION. HE SAID HE INTENDED TO PLAY A GREATER ROLE THAN HERETOFORE IN SUCH ACTIVITIES.

5. ON SYRIAN UNITY. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION FROM ME ALSO HE SAID THAT RATHER THAN UNITY GROWING CLOSER, HE HAD PULLED BACK SOMEWHAT. THE SYRIANS HAD SOME FUNNY IDEAS AND PROPOSALS WHICH WOULD END UP WITH HIS BECOMING A SYRIAN SATELLITE AND HE DID NOT WANT THAT. ASAD WAS A NICE ENOUGH FELLOW, AND IN PEACE TIME THERE MIGHT BE ENOUGH TIME TO WORK THINGS OUT, BUT UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, HE NEEDED TO GO SLOW.

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HE ALSO WANTED TO KEEP JORDAN IN A POSITION WHERE IT COULD HELP WORK OUT PROBLEMS BETWEEN THOSE WHO WANTED TO GO FAST ON THE PEACE SETTLEMENT (EGYPT AND THOSE WHO WANTED TO GO SLOW (SYRIA) IF HE GOT TOO CLOSE TO SYRIA NOW THAT MIGHT UPSET THINGS.

6. KING SAYS THAT HE PLANS TO SEE ASAD SHORTLY BEFORE LEAVING FOR THE US. THE REST OF HIS TRAVELS WILL BE WITHIN COUNTRY HE HOPES TO LEAVE ON AUGUST 17 FOR LONDON WHERE AUGUST 19 QUEEN ELIZABETH HAS INVITED HIM TO LUNCH TO CELEBRATE THEIR JOINT SILVER JUBILEE. HE HAS HEARD SAUDI ARABIA IN PARTICULAR A LONG MESSAGE FROM FAHD OVER THEIR PRIVATE LINK COMPLAINING ABOUT AN INTERVIEW KING GAVE ACCUSING OIL STATES OF BEING MISERLY WITH CONFRONTATION ARABS. KING SAID HIS PROBLEMS WERE NOT WITH SAUDI ARABIA, THAT HE WOULD MAKE THAT CLEAR PUBLICLY AS SOON AS HE WOULD AND THAT HE HOPED TO SEE FAHD SOON. NO ANSWER ON LATTER, ALTHOUGH HE HAS ASKED TO SEND COURT CHIEF AND ARMY COMMANDER IN CHIEF SOON TO SAUDI ARABIA TO TALK ABOUT MONEY PROBLEMS INCLUDING CREDIT GUARANTEES AND THE \$140 MILLION HAWK PAYMENT PROBLEMS.

7. COMMENT:, IN SPITE OF NUMEROUS HINTS RIFAI HIAS GIVEN
KING DOES NOT SEEM INCLINED NOW TO MAKE CHANGES IN JORDANIANS
GOVERNMENT. ALSO GO SLOW POLICY ON SYRIAN UNITY VERY MUCH IN KEEPING
WITH HIS MOST RECENT PAST STATEMENTSTO ME. END COMMENT.

8. KING IS VERY MUCH LOOKING FORWARD TO VISIT, TO MEETING
PRESIDENT CARTER AND TO RENEWING CONTACTS WITH YOU.

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